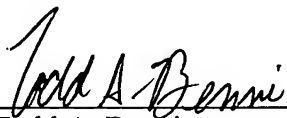


## REMARKS

Prior to substantive examination, please amend claims 1, 14, 19, 21, 22, 26-28, please cancel claims 3, 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23-25, and please add new claims 29-31 as presented above. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to an Official Office Action on the merits and no fees are believed due. Further, this Preliminary Amendment is not being presented in light of any action or reference, but merely to provide improved claims over those previously filed. Therefore, no estoppel issues should attach to these newly presented claims and they should be considered in their broadest scope as if originally filed with the application. If any fee should be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0265. Please contact the undersigned if any issues exist.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: May 3, 2005